

## The Hawaiian Entomological Society: An Analysis of Its Growth and Activities<sup>1</sup>

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*(Presidential Address, submitted December, 1959)*

Periodic analysis of the activities of the Hawaiian Entomological Society, even if it serves no other purpose other than to stimulate interest in its affairs, is well worth the effort and pages devoted to it in the "PROCEEDINGS". Such analysis, if it is to be of value, must be as frank and objective as possible. Furthermore, such an undertaking should be made at least every five years so that we may be able to detect our progress as well as the shortcomings of our Society.

At the close of this last meeting of 1959 I would like to present an analysis of the growth and activities of the Society from the time of its organization to the present. I can assure you that this was not done because I felt that something was wrong with our Society. I do feel, however, that no society is perfect, and that we should strive for improvement in order to be of greatest service to our profession and to fulfill our obligations to our community. I hope that, besides fulfilling my obligations as the retiring president, the present discussion may be of interest historically as well as in turning our thoughts to the improvement of our Society. It is not the intent of this discussion to cover all aspects of our Society's activities. It is my hope that others coming after me will express their own viewpoints, which may not be in agreement with mine, and also touch upon those subjects that I have omitted. Various aspects pertaining to our Society have been discussed already by my predecessors and one may find material for thought in their comments (Ehrhorn, 1913; Muir, 1914; Giffard, 1920; Bryan, 1929; Pemberton, 1934, 1951; and Schmidt, 1939).

Historically, the Hawaiian Entomological Society has an interesting background. Fifty-three years have passed since that memorable day, December 15, 1904, when a group of eight far-sighted individuals met in the board room of

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<sup>2</sup> I wish to extend my apologies for serving the Society for such a short period before my departure to India, and thank all elected and appointed officers for the fine cooperation which they have given me during my term of office. This manuscript was completed in India during the tenure of a research scholarship from the United States Educational Foundation. The time and material made available by the Foundation are gratefully acknowledged.

the Bureau of Agriculture, now the State Department of Agriculture and Conservation, "to consider the advisability of forming the Hawaiian Entomological Society." The purpose of the proposed organization was to "promote the study of entomology in all possible bearings, and to encourage friendly relations between those in any way interested in the science." Since then the Society has met at monthly intervals for the past fifty-three years or nearly 650 times. There is no doubt that our Society, although relatively small, has been of immeasurable value in fostering friendly relations among entomologists, encouraging the study of insects, and rendering valuable service to our island community in regards to a multitude of entomological problems (Pemberton 1951).

#### MEMBERSHIP GROWTH AND ATTENDANCE

The membership of the Society at present consists largely of entomologists employed by various agencies in Hawaii: Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, Federal Quarantine Service, United States Agricultural Research Service, United States Public Health Service, State Board of Health, State Department of Agriculture and Conservation, Pineapple Research Institute of Hawaii, Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association, and the University of Hawaii. It is indeed gratifying that practically all entomologists employed by these agencies, as well as graduate students in Entomology at the University of Hawaii, are members of the Society. In addition, we have a number of members residing outside of Hawaii who are interested in the entomology of the Pacific area.

The nucleus of the Society was a small group in 1905; however, today we have a sizeable membership in spite of the small geographical area of Hawaii. The growth of the Society, as shown in figure 1, was slow at the beginning but within the past ten years has increased rapidly. The growth curve shows no indication of leveling off within the next few years. Interestingly, the growth curve is similar to the well-known logistic curve familiar to demographers and population ecologists. Such a growth obviously has nothing to do with the reproductive rate of entomologists for entomologists do not always beget entomologists. It is likely that such growth indicates that as the human population and general economy of Hawaii has increased the need for entomologists has increased proportionally.

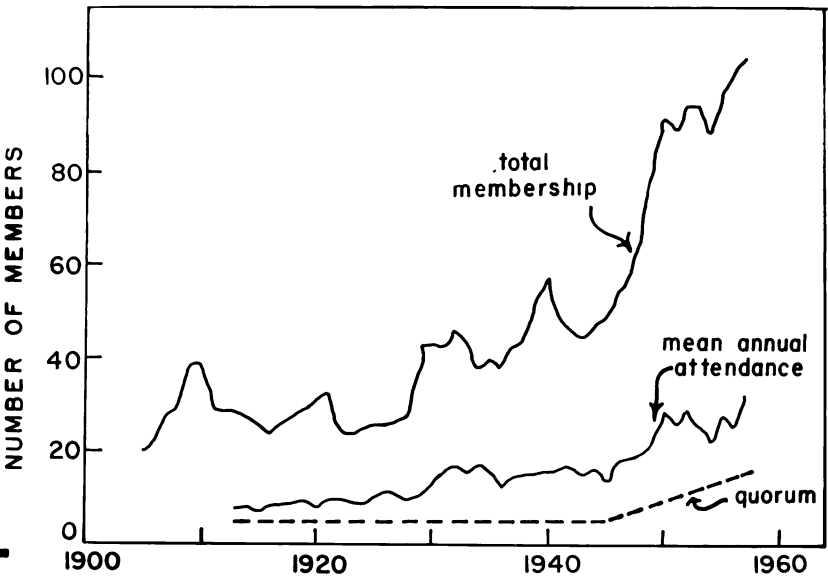
The attendance data shown in figure 1 are somewhat of a disappointment. It is evident that throughout the years the attendance has been considerably below the maximum which is possible even after allowance is made for non-resident members. To be sure, we can never hope to have a perfect attendance as there will always be members who are either on sabbatical leave or conducting research in various parts of the world. Even though the attendance has not been as good

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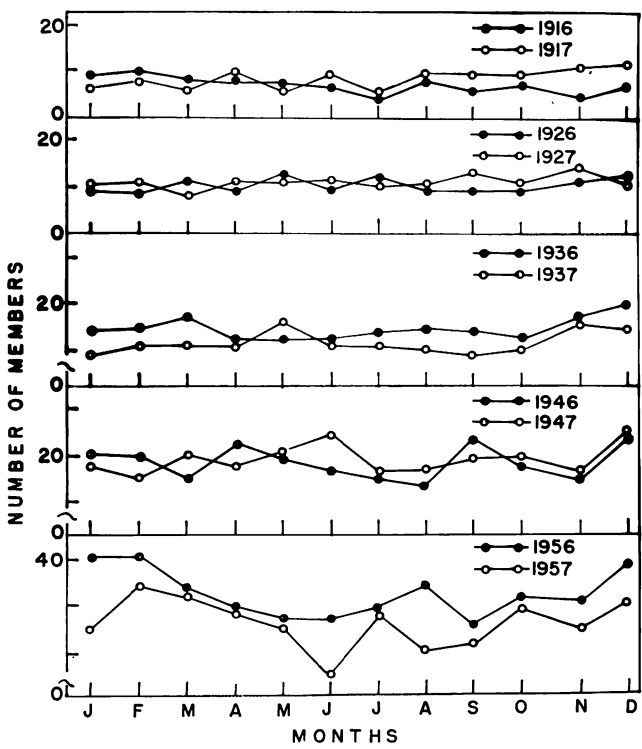
Figure 1. The growth in total membership and mean annual attendance of the Hawaiian Entomological Society from 1905 to 1957.

Figure 2. Monthly variation in the number of members attending meetings of the Hawaiian Entomological Society during various years.

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as one might desire, the Society has always had enough members present to constitute a quorum. From 1905 to 1945 the quorum was five members; however, in 1945 it was increased to fifteen.

The seasonal characteristics of attendance, presented in figure 2, show an interesting trend. Although the data for all years are not presented, it appears that during the early years, for example 1916 and 1917, the attendance did not fluctuate greatly from month to month. However, in recent years, for example 1956 and 1957, there seems to be a marked seasonal fluctuation. The December and January meetings generally have a higher attendance than those of the summer months. From these records it appears that members took more consistently active interest throughout the year during the early years than at present.

The cause of the declining attendance of our monthly meetings is not known; however, this year the Society made an effort to correct this situation. It was felt that the strengthening of the programs of the meetings might result in an increase in attendance. Thus, the Society amended its constitution to include a standing Program Committee with Dr. C. E. Pemberton as chairman. The effect of this committee in increasing attendance is not as yet known. In addition to the program an active participation in the presentation of notes, exhibitions and discussions by all members would no doubt have a beneficial effect on attendance. It seems to me that with the retirement from the Society of such members as Dr. Swezey and Dr. Williams our Society has lost much of that flavor that formerly made our meetings so interesting.

#### THE "PROCEEDINGS"

One of the major undertakings and also perhaps one of the major assets of the Society is the publication of the "PROCEEDINGS", which up to 1958, have been published in 16 volumes. In going over these volumes one cannot help but be impressed by their contents, and at the same time cannot help but being thankful that the founders of our Society had the vision to foresee that the time would come when the "PROCEEDINGS" would be a valuable storehouse of entomological information. Incidentally, it might be of interest to point out that our "PROCEEDINGS" antedate two of the best known American entomological periodicals, the *JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC ENTOMOLOGY* and the *ANNALS OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA*, published by the largest entomological organization, The Entomological Society of America.

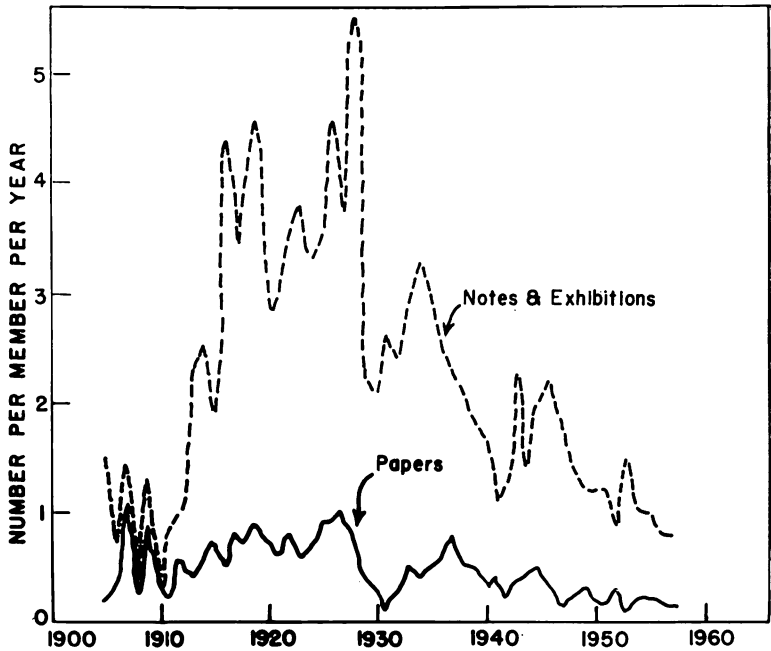
The content of our "PROCEEDINGS" is unique. To my knowledge no other entomological periodical contains the same type of material. The contents of the "PROCEEDINGS" may be grouped into the following categories: (1) Minutes of the meetings, (2) Notes and exhibitions, (3) Technical papers, and (4) Miscel-

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Figure 3. Number of notes and exhibitions, and papers published in the "PROCEEDINGS" each year from 1905 to 1957.

Figure 4. Number of chance immigrant insects reported in the "PROCEEDINGS" each year from 1919 to 1957.

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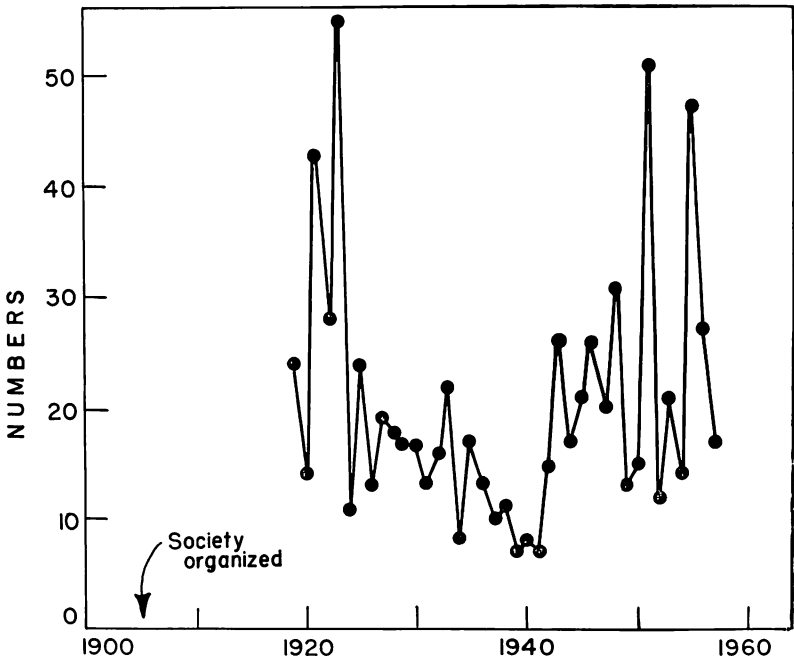


TABLE 1. Numbers of papers in the various entomological fields published in the "PROCEEDINGS" from 1905 to 1957.

Subject Category	1905-1910		1911-1920		1921-1930		1931-1940		1941-1950		1951-1957	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Taxonomy	51	52.6	90	55.2	104	53.6	122	56.2	102	57.9	81	55.1
Biological Control	0	0.0	4	2.4	7	3.6	4	1.8	11	6.2	16	10.9
Insect Pathology	0	0.0	2	1.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	4.1
Transmission of Plant Diseases	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.9	1	0.6	0	0.0
Ecology	0	0.0	1	0.6	0	0.0	3	1.4	1	0.6	4	2.7
Morphology	0	0.0	1	0.6	1	0.5	0	0.0	2	1.1	3	2.0
Economic Entomology	2	2.1	3	1.8	14	7.2	12	5.5	13	7.4	3	2.0
General Biology	38	39.2	45	27.6	42	21.6	32	14.7	21	11.9	20	13.6
Zoogeography	3	3.1	0	0.0	5	2.6	4	1.8	1	0.6	0	0.0
Medical and Veterinary	0	0.0	2	1.2	4	2.1	8	3.7	7	4.0	1	0.7
Miscellaneous (addresses, obituaries, letters, by-laws, resolutions, etc.)	3	3.1	15	9.2	17	8.8	30	13.8	17	9.6	13	8.8
Total	97		163		194		217		176		147	

laneous (obituaries, book reviews, letters, resolutions, etc.). In some instances, especially in the early issues, it is difficult to classify the contents strictly in accordance with these categories; nevertheless, it is felt that such a grouping may be useful in the present discussion.

Both the number of notes and exhibitions and the number of papers published in the "PROCEEDINGS" show a trend that is disturbing (figure 3). Although tabulated, the number of minutes and miscellaneous material is not shown in figure 3 because these items are not of great importance from a scientific standpoint. It is evident from the data presented that the number of notes and exhibitions presented was highest during 1916 to 1926 and, thereafter, we note a consistent decline. The number of papers published does not show as marked a fluctuation as that of the notes and exhibitions; however, it also shows a similar declining trend. This decline cannot be attributed to the decrease in the number of short papers because the number of pages per volume also showed a decline. To a certain extent this decline may be attributed to the reluctance of members to publish papers in the "PROCEEDINGS" because of a feeling among some that little or no prestige is gained by doing so. I do not intend to argue whether or not our "PROCEEDINGS" have or do not have this nebulous but much sought after commodity. However, it is difficult to see how a journal can ever attain prestige when its members are willing to receive it, but are unwilling to contribute to it. Needless to say, the *sine qua non* of attaining this commodity lies in the members themselves. In addition, it might be said that this decline could also be due to the cost of the reprints. Admittedly the cost of our reprints as compared to others has been high; however, the organizations with entomologists on their staff have been exceedingly generous in giving us financial support and in purchasing reprints of papers published by their staff members in spite of the cost.

The proportion of pages of the "PROCEEDINGS" devoted to the above-mentioned categories may be of interest, particularly to the Editorial and Finance Committees. As indicated in figure 5, the proportion of pages devoted to the various categories remained remarkably constant throughout the years in spite of the changes in size of the volumes. The approximate percentages were: (1) papers, 80 per cent; (2) notes and exhibitions 10 to 15 per cent; and (3) minutes and miscellaneous materials each 2 to 5 per cent. Thus, we see a good distribution of pages in the various categories.

An attempt was made to determine the different kinds of papers published in the "PROCEEDINGS", even though the classification is at best arbitrary as some papers contained subjects covering several fields. The kinds of papers published covered the following fields: taxonomy, biological control, insect pathology, disease transmission by insects, ecology, morphology, economic entomology, general biology, zoogeography, and medical and veterinary entomology. Papers on taxonomy and general biology represented the highest percentage of papers (Table 1). It was of interest to find that the number of different kinds of papers

increased between 1905 and 1930, however, since then there has been no increase (figure 6).

One of the chief activities of the Society is the recording of new immigrant insects in the "PROCEEDINGS" as they are discovered in Hawaii (Pemberton, 1951). The number of immigrant insects recorded during 1919 to 1957, shown in figure 4, indicates that new insects have been detected here every year since 1920. These figures are in agreement with the statement made by Jensen (1946) that despite the most diligent quarantine inspection, foreign insects are still being introduced, but that the quarantine service reduces the number of these introductions to a fraction of what it would be in the absence of their work.

In regard to our "PROCEEDINGS" I feel that improvements are in order. We have increased the price but the contents have been declining in recent years. Does this mean that we are exhausting our entomological work in Hawaii? My answer to this question is an unqualified no. There are still vast unexplored areas of entomological research in Hawaii, and the "PROCEEDINGS" should continue to be a valuable depository of information on Hawaiian entomology. Furthermore, we should strive to publish papers of greater diversity than in the past. By doing so we might increase the value and circulation of our journal thus alleviating some of our perpetual financial problems.

#### VISITORS TO OUR SOCIETY

Among the important assets of the Society is the attraction of visitors to our meetings (Pemberton, 1951). Geographically isolated as we are from other entomological laboratories and societies, it is highly important that we receive visitors so that there can be free interchange of ideas, thus making it possible to keep in touch with new developments in the various entomological fields. It is not possible to list all those who have visited us, but it can be said without reservation that we have been visited by many of the leading entomologists of the world. The number of visitors attending our meetings has increased considerably during recent years. (figure 7), and it is my hope that we will continue to welcome increasing numbers of visitors in the years to come.

#### CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

The first meeting to organize the Hawaiian Entomological Society was held December 15, 1904. With eight members present, the organization of the proposed Society was thoroughly discussed and Messrs. Craw, Kotinsky and Terry

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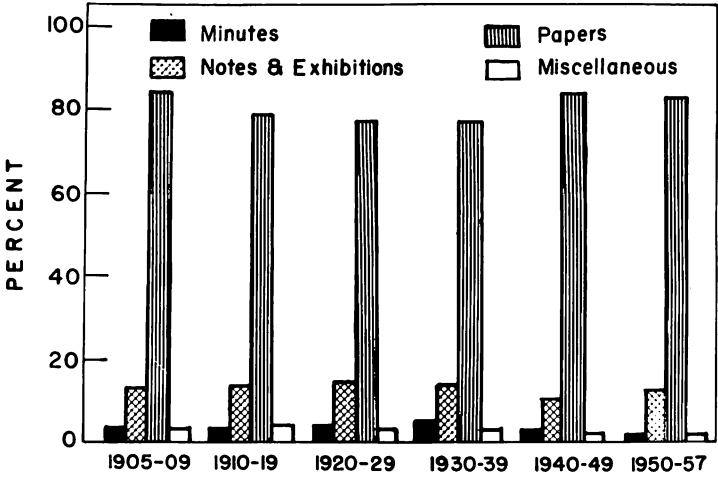
Figure 5. Percentage of pages of the "PROCEEDINGS" devoted to various categories published, exclusive of the indices.

Figure 6. Changes in the number of papers in the various entomological fields published in the "PROCEEDINGS" from 1905 to 1957.

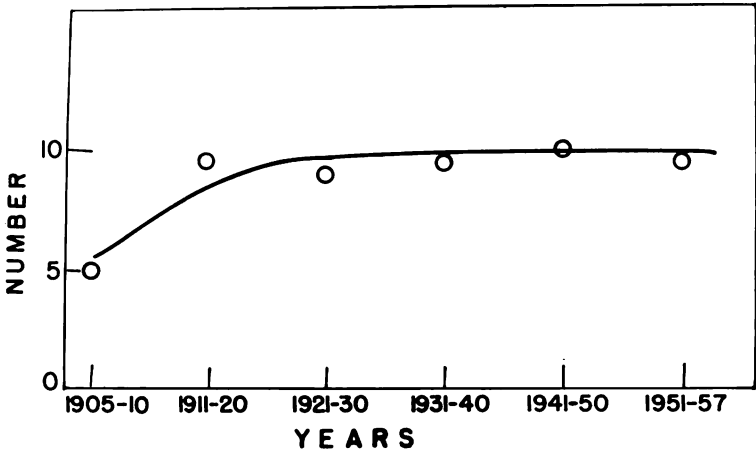
Figure 7. Number of visitors that attended the meetings of the Hawaiian Entomological Society from 1913 to 1957. Records before 1913 are not available.



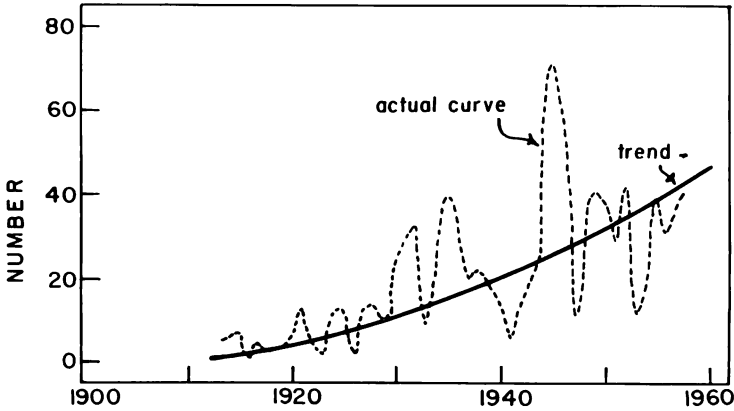
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were appointed to draft the constitution. At the meeting held January 26, 1905 the original constitution was adopted.

In going over the records I have found that the constitution has been revised or amended at least seven times, 1906, 1909, 1919, 1931, 1933, 1938, 1956, and 1958. These changes are a healthy sign for they indicate that our Society is changing in response to the needs of a changing world. At the same time it is a distinct credit to the original founders that the basic structure of the constitution has remained unchanged.

There is another comment that I would like to make in regard to the constitution which might have a bearing on the future activities of our Society. Upon reading the constitution, I was puzzled with the phrase: "to encourage friendly relations between those in any way interested in the science . . .". I thought such a phrase was redundant for it implied that there were hostile relations and that one of the objectives of the Society was to bring about harmonious relationships. There are no such hostile relations. However, I can now see the significance of that phrase. With the growth of our Society and our community the problems that confront us tend to be more numerous and complex than in the past, and internal conflicts and misunderstandings are likely to arise. I sincerely hope that such conflicts never arise and that the day will never come when professional entomologists will need a written code of ethics such as those of certain other professions.

#### FINANCE

As in the case of other scientific societies, our Society has been beset with financial difficulties even though we do not have any outstanding debts. The major expenses of the Society are (1) cost of the publication of the "PROCEEDINGS" and indices, (2) contributions to the ZOOLOGICAL RECORD and Hawaii Science Fair, and (3) general operating expenses.

The Society is a non-profit but not a self supporting organization, whose income is derived from dues, sale of the "PROCEEDINGS", and contributions. Aside from contributions our largest source of income is from dues, which, incidentally, have been five dollars per year for the past 53 years. Although our income from this source has shown marked increase in recent years due to increased membership, the Society has never been self supporting. The income from the sale of the "PROCEEDINGS" has not been of such magnitude as to be of great financial help. The price of the "PROCEEDINGS" in 1905 was 50 cents per number; later, the price was increased to two dollars, and at present it is five dollars. In addition to these sources of income the Society has been indeed very fortunate in having support from various sources. The Trustees of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association have given generously for many years. The McInerny Foundation has also given financial support. Others who have contributed in the past were: W. G. Irwin and Company; Alexander and Baldwin, Ltd.; H. Hackfield and Company; Castle and Cooke, Inc.; Theo. H. Davies &

Co., Ltd.; C. Brewer and Company, Ltd.; Schaefer and Company; and Bishop and Company. In addition to these contributors, the society has been blessed with the generosity of other organizations that have given generous support through the purchase of reprints of papers published in the "PROCEEDINGS" by members of their respective organizations. At one time we had "Patrons" in our Society who were not professional entomologists but who gave financial assistance (Muir, 1914). Although others have expressed it in the past, I personally wish to take this opportunity to extend the Society's thanks to all those supporters without whose generosity the Society could not have possibly existed for 53 years.

It is evident to all members that the financial status of our Society has never been very sound. Even though our income has increased considerably because of increased membership, the cost of operating the Society has also increased and thus we have to depend on contributions. I personally feel that our Society should make every effort to be self supporting even though it means an increase in the dues. It might be argued that increasing the dues accomplishes nothing because it might result in a decrease in membership. I cannot share this viewpoint because nearly all other scientific Societies have increased their dues in recent years without any apparent adverse effect on membership. Members who are not interested in the Society will drop out whether or not we keep the dues at the 1905 level.

#### CONCLUSION

The purpose of this discussion has been to make an analysis of the Society's past performance. Through such an analysis it is hoped that we can prepare for future development of our Society. Although several possible improvements are suggested in this discussion, it is with considerable pride that I can state that the Society has done remarkably well considering the resources available. It is my sincere hope that our Society will continue to operate in as creditable a manner as it has done in the past.

In closing I would like to dwell on a thought which has come to me from my hobby of breeding dogs of exhibition quality which might have a bearing on this discussion. Not long ago I had an opportunity to discuss problems of dog breeding with some of the outstanding authorities in the field. I remember vividly a statement made by one of these men that the most dangerous obstacle to the improvement of any breed is a disease called "kennel blindness", a disease, which to my surprise, is one which affects the eyes of man and not of dogs. The typical syndrome is inability to see the weaknesses and faults of one's own dogs and the superior ability to see the short-comings of others. There seems nothing dreadful about this disease as far as one's health is concerned; but it has an adverse effect on one's own breeding program by creating a feeling of complacency, a feeling (in spite of what the doctors say about a person's heart) that is not the very best intellectual milieu for improvement.

I hope that our members never suffer from "kennel blindness". The Hawaiian economy is growing. The attainment of statehood, growth of industrial and agricultural enterprises, and the approaching jet age, are but a few significant omens of that future growth. In such a dynamic era as this, where problems become increasingly numerous and complex, our Society cannot afford to be static. It must keep up with the tempo of our present era in order to be an asset rather than a liability both to our profession and our community.

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